

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4556
USDOC WASHDC
USDOE WASHDC

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USDOC FOR CAGNE; USDOE FOR BERGOLD

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EMIN OVIP OTRA MO
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF GOM MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES
MOUSSA SAADI TO US

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LONG-AWAITED OFFICIAL
CONFIRMATION THAT GOM MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES
MOUSSA SAADI (ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE OR SIX OTHER MINMINES
OFFICIALS) DESIRES TO MAKE TWO WEEK VISIT TO US DURING
PERIOD MARCH 15-APRIL 15, 1978. TIMING TO BE
FIXED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREFERENCES AND AVAILABILITY OF
USG AND OTHER OFFICIALS WITH WHOM SAADI WISHES TO MEET.
THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE AREAS OF
INTEREST SAAID WISHES TO DISCUSS AND IDENTIFIES SITES
DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO VISIT. WE RECOMMEND STRONGLY
THAT DEPARTMENT OR DOE PLAN FULL PROGRAM FOR DELEGATION'S
VISIT, AND SUGGEST CONTACTS THAT COULD HELP IN PUTTING
PROGRAM TOGETHER. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM MFA
FORMALLY CONFIRMING SAADI'S LONG-STANDING INTEREST IN
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SUBSTANTIVE/TECHNICAL VISIT TO US (COPIES POUCHED NEA/AFN
AND EB/ORF). NOTE SET FORTH SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES SAADI
WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH USG OFFICIALS IN ENERGY AND MINING
AREAS, IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC SITES HE AND HIS DELEGATION
DESIRED TO VISIT THROUGHOUT USG, AND PROPOSED END
FEBRUARY EARLY MARCH 1978 AS GENERAL TIME FRAME.

2. DURING FEBRUARY 14 MEETING BETWEEN VISITING EXIM BANK CHAIRMAN JOHN MOORE AND SAADI, OPPORTUNITY AROSE FOR AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS PROPOSED VISIT WITH SAADI PERSONALLY. SAADI NOTED THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED DRAFT NOTE TO MFA IMMEDIATELY AFTER ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S JANUARY 9-11 MVISIT TO MOROCCO, EXPRESSED DISMAY AT LONG DELAY IN GETTING FINAL TEXT OF NOTE TO EMBASSY, AND SAID PROPOSED FEBRUARY-MARCH DATES NOW OBVIOUSLY UNREASONABLE.

3. NEVERTHELESS, SAADI SAID HE WAS STILL ANXIOUS TO MAKE TRIP AND NOW PROPOSED A TWO WEEK VISIT BETWEEN MARCH 15 AND APRIL 15, WITH A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME TO BE WORKED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH USG PREFERENCES. SAADI ALSO RECAPITULATED SUBSTANTIVE PURPOSES OF VISIT AS A WHOLE, TOGETHER WITH SPECIFIC OUT-OF-WASHINGTON SITES HE WISHED TO VISIT. THESE ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS CONTAINED IN NOTE BUT WITH ADDITION OF FURTHER NUANCES ON PURPOSES OF TRIP AND TWO OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST HE WISHED TO EXPLORE WITH COUNTERPARTS IN WASHINGTON. WHAT FOLLOWS IS THEREFORE LATEST LIST OF WHAT SAADI WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMPLISH, AS COMMUNICATED FEBRUARY 14 TO AMBASSADOR.

4. PURPOSE. SAADI WISHES TO ELICIT BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN IMPROVING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND MOROCCO IN THE FIELDS OF ENERGY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPMENT AND MINING OPERATIONS. HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE PREVIOUS LACK OF US CORPORATE INTEREST IN MOROCCO HAD BEEN DUE TO THE RELATIVELY SMALL SCALE OF POTENTIAL MINING AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS. HE NOW FORSEES SEVERAL MUCH LARGER PROJECTS, EACH OF WHICH WOULD REQUIRE INVESTMENTS BETWEEN \$400 AND \$500 MILLION. SAADI IS ANXIOUS TO EXPLAIN MOROCCO'S NEW ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE SECTOR EXECUTIVES.

5. WASHINGTON VISITS. SAADI DESIRES TO CONSULT WITH NUCLEAR AS WELL AS CONVENTIONAL ENERGY OFFICIALS IN DOE; MINING OFFICIALS (INCLUDING PHOSPHATE EXPERT WILLIAM STOWASSER) IN DOI (BUREAU OF MINES); JOHN REINEMUND AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN USGS TO REVIEW REMOTE SENSING PROJECT, DURING WHICH HE WISHED TO DISCUSS FURTHER POSSIBILITIES FOR SATELLITE MAPPING OF MOROCCO; AND FINALLY, FOREIGN IMPLICATIONS OF US ENERGY POLICY WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN STATE. SAADI ALSO ANXIOUS TO CALL ON ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER (WHOM HE ACCOMPANIED THROUGHOUT LATTER'S JANUARY 9-11 VISIT TO MOROCCO) BUT HAD NO OTHER SPECIFIC OFFICIALS IN

MIND FOR PERSONAL CALLS.

6. OUT-OF-WASHINGTON VISITS. SAADI (ACCOMPANIED BY DELEGATION) ALSO WISHES TO VISIT FOLLOWING SITES AND COMPANIES DURING HIS US STAY;

A. COLORADO OIL SHALE DEPOSITS. SAADI IS VERY ENCOURAGED BY POSSIBILITIES IN THIS FIELD AS A RESULT OF A RECENT US ORE BENEFICIATION STUDY. HE ALSO PRAISED LATEST US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY THE USG DECISION TO SUBSIDIZE OIL FROM SHALE AT A LEVEL OF \$2.00;BARREL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT TOSCO AND UNION OIL COMPANIES HAVE COMPLETED STUDIES ON THE TIMAHDT OIL SHALE DEPOSITS IN MOROCCO FOR THE ACCOUNT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF BRPM.

B. LOW GRADE MINNESOTA IRON ORE DEPOSITS AND MINES. SAADI NOTED THAT THEY REFLECT SIMILAR CHARACTERISTICS TO GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO AND THE SAHARA. HE IS INTERESTED IN VISITING BOTH MINING AND BENEFICIATION FACILITIES. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS PRINCIPAL CONTACT IN THIS FIELD HAS BEEN A MR. EDWARD R. HEWITT, VICE PRESIDENT FOR CORPORATE PLANNING OF THE OGLEBAY NORTON COMPANY, OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF IRON ORE MINES.

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ACTION NEA-10

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OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /050 W
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USDOC FOR CAGNE; USDOE FOR BERGOLD

C. THE RECENTLY DISCOVERED PINE DALE PETROLEUM DEPOSIT IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS. SAADI SAID THAT THIS DEPOSIT (WHICH HE LOCATED IN MONTANA) OCCURS IN A GEOLOGICAL CONFIGURATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE SEDIMENTARY BASIN OF THE RIF AREA. SAADI PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON VISITING THIS OPERATION, WHICH HE ASSERTED IS THE LARGEST PETROLEUM FIND IN THE US SINCE WWII.

D. THE WESTINGHOUSE (WYOMING MINERALS) PLANT CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN FLORIDA TO EXTRACT URANIUM OXIDE FROM PHOSPHORIC ACID. HE IS ALSO EAGER TO VISIT THIS FACILITY WHICH WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE ONE OCP IS CONSIDERING FOR INSTALLATION AT ITS SAFI CHEMICAL COMPLEX.

7. SAADI'S MINISTRY HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT SAADI WOULD PREFER TO FOCUS VISIT ON SUBSTANTIVE/ TECHNICAL ISSUES AND DOWN-PLAY TO MAXIMUM EXTENT COMPATIBLE WITH HIS POSITION AS GOM MINISTER PROCEDURAL AND CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS. A TRAINED GEOLOGIST, RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY AND AUTHOR IN THE FIELD, SAADI
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GENERALLY PREFERS TO DEAL WITH TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED PEOPLE AND DISCUSS SUBSTANCE AT SOCIAL EVENTS.

8. EMBASSY BELIEVES SAADI'S PROPOSED VISIT IS VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS GENERALLY, ESPECIALLY SINCE TRIP IS NOW TO SOME EXTENT A RETURN VISIT FOR THAT OF ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S LAST JANUARY. AT LEAST EQUALLY IMPORTANT, IT CAN SERVE TO OPEN UP POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT US TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN A KEY SECTOR OF MOROCCO'S ECONOMY. WE ALSO BELIEVE IT MAY STRENGTHEN WESTINGHOUSE'S HAND AS IT MOVES TO FIRM UP THE URANIUM EXTRACTION PROJECT WITH OCP DURING THE COMING MONTHS. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT EITHER STATE OR DOE PUT TOGETHER COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR SAADI AND HIS DELEGATION. A RECOMMENDATION TO THIS EFFECT WAS COMMUNICATED TO DOE ASSISTANT SECRETARY BERGOLD AND STATE DAS STEPHEN BOSWORTH DURING THEIR PRESENCE IN MOROCCO IN CONNECTION WITH ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VISIT NOTED EARLIER.

9. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES AGREE, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS (ALL BUT ONE OF WHOM WE KNOW)

COULD HELP ARRANGE SAADI'S OUT-OF-WASHINGTON VISITS.

WESTINGHOUSE: ARTHUR CALLAHAN IN COMPANY'S WASHINGTON OFFICES, WHO BY NOW FULLY INFORMED OF SAADI'S VISIT (SEE BELOW).

WYOMING MINERALS: MICHAEL MEIERKORD IN COMPANY'S LAKELAND, FLORIDA OFFICE, WHO ALSO AWARE OF VISIT.

OGLEBAY NORTON COMPANY. MR. EDWARD R. HEWITT, VICE PRESIDENT FOR CORPORATE PLANNING. IN A TELEPHONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONVERSATION WITH MR. HEWITT IN LATE JULY 1977, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT GOM HAD ASKED O.N. TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF MINING LOW GRADE IRON ORE DEPOSITS, WHICH O.N. FOUND DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP FOR LOGISTICAL REASONS AND THUS QUOTE NOT PROMISING END QUOTE. HEWITT ALSO SAID THAT O.N. WOULD BE QUOTE GLAD TO END QUOTE ARRANGE FOR A VISIT TO THE HOME OFFICE IN CLEVELAND AND COULD MAKE THEIR COMPANY PLANE AVAILABLE FOR A TRIP TO MINNESOTA.

TOSCO CORP: ROBERT CROOKSTON WHO IS EXECUTIVE WE HAVE DEALT WITH IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR STUDY FOR BRPM. TOSCO PRESIDENT MORTON WINSTON AND OTHER CORPORAT LEVEL TOSCO EXECUTIVES WILL BE IN MOROCCO FEBRUARY 20-24 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MINMINES AND BRPM.

10. DURING RECENT TELECON WITH WYOMING MINERALS EXECUTIVES ON OTHER MATTERS, EMBASSY PASSED ON SAADI'S INTEREST IN VISITING URANIUM EXTRACTION PLANT. LATTER WERE DELIGHTED AT PROSPECT AND ARE READY TO MAKE FULL CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAM. MOREOVER, THEY WOULD LIKE TO ACQUAINT HIM WITH COMPANY'S NEW ACTIVITIES IN DIRECT URANIUM MINING. THEY BELIEVE LATTER MAY BE RELEVANT FOR MOROCCO GIVEN PROBABILITY OF OCCURRENCE OF SIMILAR GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURES IN MOROCCO TO THOSE WYOMING NOW WORKING WITH IN US.

11. FOLLOWING WASHINGTON'S REACTION, EMBASSY WILL FORWARD BIO DATA AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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